Ms. Sanskriti Sinha, an Aeronautical Engineer of Deccan Airlines was found dead in the operational area of IGI Airport, Delhi.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) The case is under investigation with the Delhi Police.

Helipads for benefit of critically ill patients

†189. SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make helipads for shifting critical patients from one end of the country to the other;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any step in this regard, so far;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Government, at present, do not propose to construct helipads exclusively for handling critical patients, however, helipads are being planned in major cities which could be used for medical exigencies also.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Bagdogra Airport as International Airport

†190. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal regarding making Bagdogra Airport as an International Airport;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay;

(c) whether Government have received applications from companies for undertaking new flights;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Bagdogra airport is a defence airport where Airports Authority of India (AAI) operates a Civil Enclave to cater to limited domestic traffic. Further, no airlines has made any firm request to operate international flights from this airport. As such, presently, there is no proposal to declare Bagdogra airport as an International airport.

(c) No requests have been received by AAI for undertaking new flights from Bagdogra.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Government have issued Route Dispersal Guidelines to regulate air traffic in the country keeping in view the traffic needs of various regions specially the North East Region. All scheduled Airlines are required to deploy at least 10% of their capacity deployed on major trunk routes on routes to and from North East, Jammu & Kashmir, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Bagdogra is part of North East Region. Subject to compliance with Route Dispersal Guidelines, Airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country in their commercial judgement.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.